

cesses; the truth is just the opposite, and is shown by some of Luys' cases. The classification adopted by Bra is the etiological one of Morel, and Bra does not seem to have assimilated the important modifications of this made in Germany and Italy. In some respects it is not as consistent as Luys' classification, as is shown by Bra's making varieties based on other principles than etiology. Bra has not carried it to the absurd extreme of Skae. Both Bra and Luys believe in moral insanity, and both believe in impulsive insanity. It is almost unnecessary to state that Bra, being a pupil of Morel, recognizes an hereditary insanity dependent on cortical malformation rather than disease, and Luys does likewise, as is shown in his third division. The descriptions of the various types are clearly given in both works. The work of Luys does not lean to the absurd views of late formulated by Voisin, that demonstrable pathological change is a constant factor in the acute psychoses. The treatment given in both works deserves study. The works are both printed in the poor style characteristic of French medical publishers; neither has a good index, and the illustrations of Luys resemble photographs of the surface of the moon more than they do photographs of nerve tissue.

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**Insanity : Its Causes and Prevention.** By HENRY PUTNAM STEARNS, M.D., Superintendent of the Retreat for the Insane, Hartford, Connecticut; Lecturer on Insanity in the Yale College Medical Department. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1883.

The present work is obviously intended more for the public than the profession, and should not therefore be subjected to the criticism which a work of a purely scientific character requires. It is obvious that the author cannot conceive of morbid mental phenomena other than as associated with disease of the brain. The preliminary chapter does not contain any thing calling for special mention. It is written in a popular style, and neither the mode of thought nor style of composition is specially striking. The chapter on the increase of insanity places too little stress on the fundamental fact that as nations increase in population and civilization, persons displaying mental peculiarities become more and more out of accord with their surroundings and are in consequence committed to asylums, where formerly they would be punished as criminals or allowed to roam about as innocents. The author's statistics are not of much value, as they are not analyzed with sufficient care. The chapter on insanity and civiliza-

tion does not contain much calling for special attention. The use of stimulants is not confined to civilized races, and is as widespread as the race. The author in this chapter says that "disease is abnormal action either in the structure or the function of an organ," which is not very comprehensible. In speaking of exciting causes of insanity in this chapter the author should have mentioned the "messnerism" on which he laid such stress in the Guiteau case as a cause of insanity in Guiteau's cousin. The chapter on the insane diathesis contains nothing new nor newly put, and it is in a great measure a rehash, at a long distance, of Maudsley. The chapter on the influence of education is worth reading by laymen, but does not lay enough stress on the fact that the struggle for prizes is a premature struggle for wealth, with its alternations of hope and despair and their deleterious influence. The chapters on industrial and moral education chiefly consist of truisms. The chapter on heredity contradicts some of Dr. Stearns' statements made in the Guiteau case. His statements about the relations of inherited tendency to alcohol, and the statements made on page 1354 of the official report of the Guiteau trial, do not agree. The views expressed in the chapter on consanguineous marriages, that while these are not necessarily injurious to the offspring they should be avoided, are trite but correct. The chapter on alcohol is a "temperance" stump speech and nothing more; it ignores the causes of alcoholism, and the same remark is applicable to the chapter on tobacco. The chapter on sex, while containing much sentimentalism, contains a good deal of truth which has been slurred over by the gynæcologists. The statement that insanity from female sexual diseases is rare, is in accord with the views of the leading alienists in France, Germany, Italy, Austria, England, and the United States. The chapter on poverty is a stump speech, and the chapter on religion deserves republication by the Tract Society. The concluding chapters deserve perusal by the populace. The author says nothing of his theory, that "a change in the electrical currents passing through the brain causes insanity from fear"; nor does he enlarge upon the theory, that "a sudden rush of blood into the brain cannot cause insanity except by actually injuring it." These are serious omissions, for the scientific world has lost much in not being able to read the reasons for these anomalous views. As a popular work this book can be recommended to the laity, but as for its scientific character, "speech is silver, silence golden." It has been well issued.

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